

Insanity - 1934

## Crowded Insane Hospitals Post Grave Problem To State 8-20-34

Superintendent Partlow Declares More Room Must Be  
Provided For Those On Waiting Lists; Close  
Economy Fails To Bring Needed Funds

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TUSCALOOSA, Aug. 20.—With 233 persons on the waiting list for admission to Alabama hospitals for the insane, Dr. W. D. Partlow, general superintendent of the institutions, is preparing to ask the board of trustees for funds with which to expand facilities.

"Overcrowded conditions at Bryce hospital, Partlow Institute for Mental Defectives, and the Bryce hospital here, there are Searcy Asylum for Negroes, at about 600 inmates of the school for Mount Vernon, make it impossible mental defectives, also located here, for us to admit patients fast enough and nearly 2,000 inmates of the to eliminate a gradually growing Searcy Asylum for Negroes, bringing waiting list," Dr. Partlow said. the total population of these institutions to about 5,500.

Dr. Partlow said that a request for increased appropriations will be included in the annual report to be submitted to the board of trustees, Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year. There are always 400 or 500 additional patients out on furlough, and room must be made for them whenever their condition demands they be readmitted.

### Effects Economies

"With 2,991 patients present in Bryce hospital, and 275 out on six months furlough, we must find some means of providing more room or our service to the state will be seriously impaired," he said. "The only way we can admit those now remaining on the waiting list is by replacing vacancies developed by discharged patients."

By feeding inmates with food raised on the institutions' farms, Dr. Partlow has been able to save enough out of maintenance appropriations to provide several new buildings, but reduction in the per capita appropriation by the last legislature has caused the load to outgrow completely the capacity of the buildings.

The aggregate per capita appropriation for inmates of Bryce hospital and the Partlow Institute for Mental Defectives, located here, and for the Searcy Hospital for Negroes, at Mount Vernon, near Mobile, is \$3 per week. Until the last session of the legislature it was \$3.50.

### Total Population 5,500

The per capita appropriation of \$156 a year is the sole source of revenue of the institutions, except what the inmates produce and what is received from 75 paying patients at Bryce hospital and five paying inmates at Searcy hospital.

The total received from paying patients last year was \$28,000.

In addition to the 2,991 patients

### Veteran In Service

Dr. Partlow is farmer, physician, and friend to his patients. He has served them for 33 years, the last 15 years as superintendent. He is a native of St. Clair county.

His only recreation and hobby is fox hunting.

Through application of available funds derived from inmates' earnings, two new buildings are now nearing completion. One is a nurses' home which will make room for 75 women in the space vacated when the nurses move into their new home. The other is located on the boys' colony across the Warrior river which will house about 100 boys from the Partlow Home for the Feeble Minded. One building just recently completed provided room for 76 during the past month. This will relieve the women's waiting list for the present.

There is no scarcity of land on which buildings can be built. Colonies and institutions located here have an area of 5,551 acres. Mt. Vernon, 28 miles north of Mobile, where the Searcy hospital for negroes is located occupies 2,100 acres.